The Congregationalist

COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE
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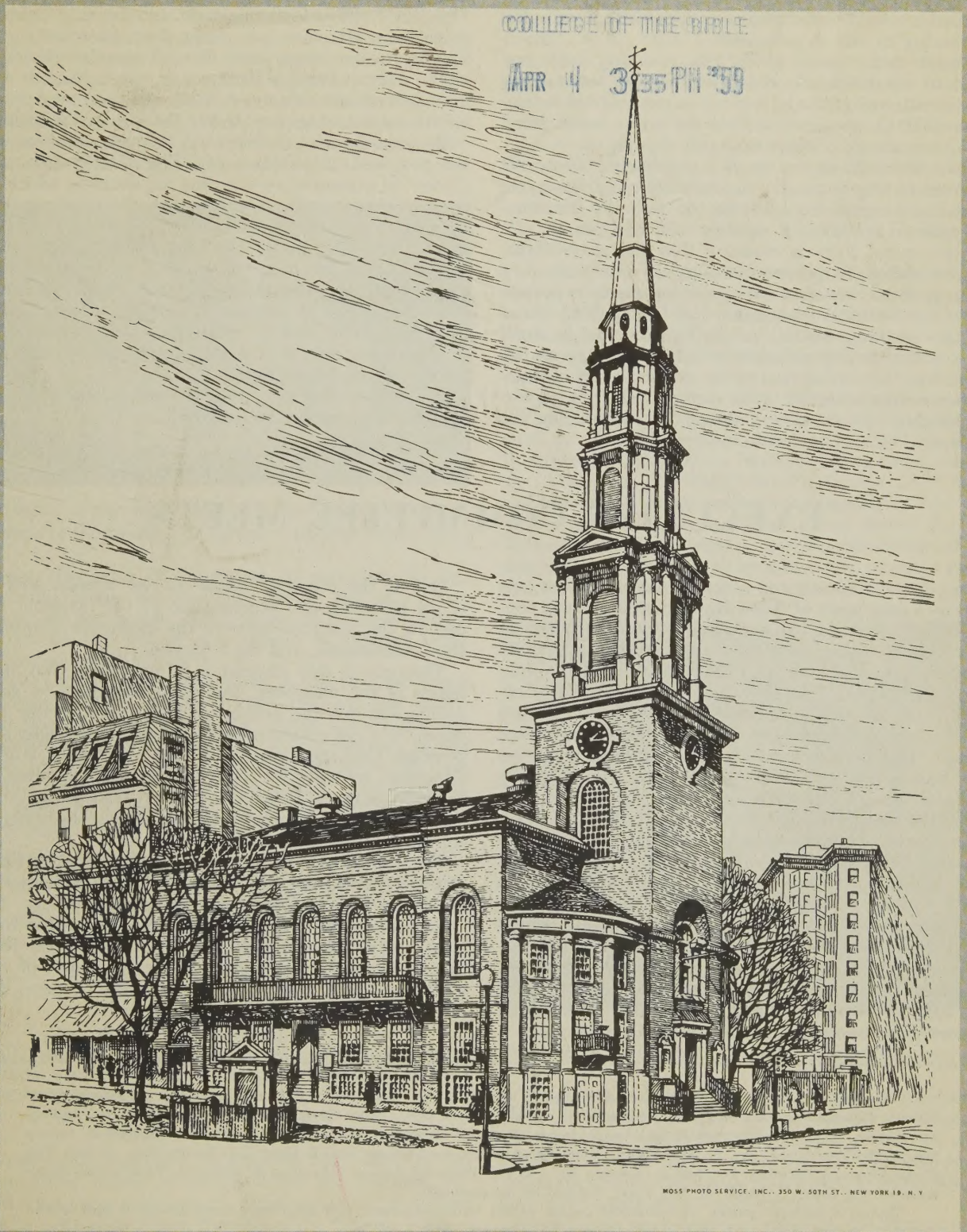

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VOLUME 2 MARCH, 1959 NUMBER 3

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." — Galatians 5:1

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Rev. Neil H. Swanson, Jr., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Each One Win One

At our last Annual Meeting someone suggested that a good way to increase the membership of our National Association would be for each member-church to win one neighboring church as a member.

If each church were to do this, winning only one church to membership in a year's time, and this process were to continue each year, how many years would it take to have 5000 Congregational Churches in our Association? The answer is that it would take only five years!

Now, obviously, such a result is not likely. There are good reasons why some churches would have difficulty in persuading neighboring churches to join the National Association. But there is validity to this approach.

Furthermore, there is evidence that this way works. Recent additions to our membership rolls have with very few exceptions come from areas in which vigorous promotion of the National Association has been taking place.

What "each one win one" really implies is not so much that any church will get another church to "sign on the dotted line," but rather that every church should be sharing its concerns in regard to the merger with its neighboring churches. Every church should be encouraging the members of other churches to study the issues.

The time has come for more of our churches to become more concerned about winning other churches to our way. This is something laymen can do, talking with friends in neighboring churches, and giving them materials to read. The first two or three years of such an effort should not be too difficult because there are so many churches which intend to remain Congregational. All they need is some additional encouragement to join the National Association.

Because so many churches will be using the time when the proposed constitution of "The United Church of Christ" is presented as the time for deciding which way they will go, it is important to make contacts in every Congregational church before the constitution is presented. The more people there are who have been alerted to the issues, the more likely it is that churches will make their decisions rationally rather than emotionally.

This is a call to suggest that each of our member-churches should seek to implement the suggestion that *each one win one.* It is a call which goes to individual Congregationalists as well.

It is certain that if nothing is done in any given area, precisely nothing will be achieved!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

Long hours of earnest and serious discussion were made easier by a deep sense of fellowship and strengthened confidence in our cause, as the Executive Committee of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches met in the Central YMCA in Milwaukee, January 27–29, 1959. The ability of the Chairman, Rev. Harry R. Butman, and others to come forth with appropriate humor now and then made the long hours seem shorter. Deeply interested lay members and ministers from East, West and Mid-America dealt thoughtfully with problems of structure and organization and considered the reports of officers and of commissions.

Optimism and realism alike prevailed in the discussion of financial matters. Methods of raising money, budget controls, and priorities for various projects were given careful consideration. The matter of public relations came in for thoughtful discussion. The announcement that several new churches have joined the National Association brought great satisfaction. Reports of officers and commissions made it clear that free Churches can work and are working effectively together, bound only by a common devotion to needed tasks.

One of the principal items on the agenda was that of the structure and organization of the National Association, the relations between the Executive Committee, the Commissions, and the Churches.

Throughout this discussion it was clear that in the minds of the members, immediate efficiency in getting results was not the primary consideration. How to be effective in our common tasks without losing sight of the principle that the direction of the Association is of the Churches, by the Churches, and for the Churches, was the purpose in the minds of all. That God works through voluntary fellowship among His people was the underlying conviction in every decision.

The Commission on Women's Work, Christian Education and Youth, and Missions and Church Extension met the day before the Executive Committee meeting. Other Commissions, and the Interim Committee of the Executive Committee, will hold meetings in the near future, and these will be reported in early issues of THE CONGREGATIONALIST.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST is published and circulated, monthly except August, by the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches of the United States. Moderator, Dr. Henry David Gray, South Congregational Church, Main and Buckingham Streets, Hartford 3, Connecticut; Assistant Moderator, Professor Gordon W. Kingsbury, 28634 Lathrup Boulevard, Lathrup Village, Michigan; Scribe, Rev. F. Willard Kime, Eaton Rapids, Michigan; Treasurer, Paul R. Biggs, Esq., Barclay Bldg., Oregon City, Oregon; Executive Secretary, Rev. Neil H. Swanson Jr., 176 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin; Eastern Field Representative, Rev. Joseph J. Russell, 61 East Street, Melrose 76, Massachusetts.

Change of address notices, undeliverable copies, orders for subscriptions, and other mail items should be sent to Rev. Joseph J. Russell, Editor, 61 East Street, Melrose 76, Massachusetts.

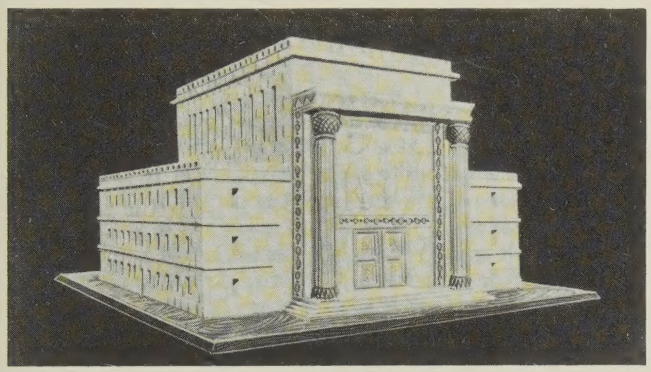
Subscriber Contributions are invited @ $2.00 a year; Sponsoring Contributions, $5.00 or more a year. For special club rates for churches, please consult the Editor. Remittances to the order of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches may be sent to the Editor or to the Treasurer of the National Association.

Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Boston, Massachusetts.

AN AUDIO-VISUAL CURRICULUM ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Fred Luenberger, Los Angeles, California

Have you as a leader of youth in a Congregational Christian Church been re-examining your course on church membership and finding it inadequate? Does it fail to present the principles of a free Church and of Congregationalism in an affirmative and adventuresome way? Actually, does it touch each young person in the membership class with the divine realization that he is an individual child of God? Have you helped each to his confrontment with God and Jesus and stirred within him the desire so that he also wishes to "join"?



"Symbols of the Old Testament" — from sound film strip, "Symbols of the Church." (Courtesy Cathedral Films, Inc.)

Truly, this crisis of the dearth of materials for our membership classes has been good for us. Not only do we seek in vain for Junior High courses on Congregationalism, but we find we are way behind in utilizing other excellent materials available.

In our church we are attempting to evolve a new series of courses. We are relying a great deal on new audio-visual material. We are excited about these films and film-strips for they are creating active interest in the classes. At present, the course is designed for a two year period — the seventh and eighth grades. However, it could easily be a three year course, for new possibilities are revealed in each unit. The present outline is:

7th Grade:	Fall Unit	— *The Life of Paul*
	Winter Unit	— *Worship and Symbols*
	Spring Unit	— *The Growth of Religious Belief* (6 weeks)
		The History of Our Own Church (6 weeks)
8th Grade:	Fall Unit	— *The Life of Jesus*
	Winter Unit	— *Comparative Religions*
	Spring Unit	— *Congregationalism*

For all these units we have discovered some audio-visual materials. As illustrations, let us give more details of the two winter units.

Materials Available

Worship and Symbols — As a source book, we find the Pilgrim Press course of study, *Ways We Worship,* by Estrid Schwantis, very helpful. The new sound film-strip series by Cathedral Films, *Symbols of the Church,* gives a wealth of material. This series consists of sound film-strips: *Symbols of the Old Testament, Symbols of the House of God, Symbols of the Cross, The Lost Symbols, and Symbols of the Faith.* In a twelve week unit, it is impossible to use all of these and carry forth the activities, projects, and field trips they bring to mind. *Symbols of the Old Testament* could be used with a Junior course of study on the Bible and *The Lost Symbols,* with a course on church history. In our Worship and Symbol unit, we are using all or parts of the other four.

Symbols of the House of God, among other things, explains the lectern and the pulpit. A visit to the sanctuary to observe these more closely is of course just one of many possibilities. The last twelve frames of *Symbols of the Faith* depict the symbols for the twelve apostles of Christ. This is one place where a whole new possible unit of study is opened up. How little our young people know of the work and travels of the twelve, after Pentecost! A book, *The Twelve Who Were Chosen,* by William Barker, is an excellent source book.

Junior Highs are at an age where the symbolism in a church touches a great responsive chord. The dove, or the hand of God seems to express an innermost thought. Through symbols, they find communication with the founders of Christianity and an understanding of its continuity.

Comparative Religions — For this course we are using the LIFE film-strips recently released, which surely present an outstanding pictorial account of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity. The book, *The World's Great Religions,* LIFE'S special edition for young readers, is available in our classrooms, too. We also use Fitch, *Their Search For God.* This study creates interest in visiting the houses of worship of other faiths and gives each young person a greater appreciation of his own.

"Symbols of the House of God" — from sound film strip, "Symbols of the Church." (Courtesy Cathedral Films, Inc.)

Yes, we are excited about this church membership study. We will be glad to share its further developments with you, and would be interested in yours. Of course the curriculum is not the total picture. We also have a notebook contest, individual interviews, a Secret Box and a special Confirmation Banquet each year.

Surely a six week course of study in the Spring, as has so often been the policy, does not begin to open the doors to Christian membership. Of course, all his Christian Education in younger years has been leading to this important time for the Junior High. It is now, though, that he is ready for the challenge of the Christian life and is eager for knowledge. Let us be ready for him!

WOMEN'S WORK

Mrs. Paul A. Quaintance, Los Angeles, California

Because our mail has contained numerous inquiries having to do with finances and benevolence monies, it has seemed wise to discuss the subject in this column. We suggest that you clip or copy and paste the addresses given below in the Church finance book or check book where they will be available for future use when making out checks for Congregational causes.

1. All contributions to the work of The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (which includes the national office in Milwaukee, the field office in Massachusetts, salaries of staff, administration, printing, communications, the work of the various Commissions, Annual Meetings, etc.) should be made payable to: The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and mailed to: Mr. Paul R. Biggs, Treasurer, Barclay Building, Oregon City, Oregon. You will receive a receipt or acknowledgement from Mr. Biggs.
2. All monetary contributions to The Women's Project — a shared benevolence, should be made payable to: The Missionary Society of the Congregational Christian Churches, and, at the lower lefthand corner of the check should be designated "The Women's Project." This should be mailed to: Dr. Howell D. Davies, Treasurer, 100 North LaSalle Street, Chicago 2, Illinois.

For Piedmont College

Thrift Shop items, including clothing for men, women and children, all sizes, utilitarian and fashionable, should be well wrapped and sent, *prepaid,* to: Thrift Shop, Demorest, Georgia.

However large or small your contribution may be to this project we invite all of you to participate in this fellowship of sharing together in the work at Piedmont College. Look for Dr. Walter's article in the February issue of THE CONGREGATIONALIST where the accomplishments and goals of the work there are described in greater detail. We sincerely hope there will be 100% participation in The Women's Project.

3. Contributions to other missions projects, whether to those endorsed by the Commission on Missions or to projects of your choice about which they may not have knowledge, may be made by check made payable to: The Missionary Society of the Congregational Christian Churches. If more than one cause is being supported, the amounts intended for each should be clearly indicated, if possible, on the lower lefthand corner of the check. Check should be mailed to: Dr. Howell D. Davies, Treasurer, 100 North LaSalle Street, Chicago 2, Illinois. Acknowledgement will be made by Dr. Davies for all contributions to the Missionary Society.

Undesignated Gifts

If you do not designate the causes which you wish to support, the Board of Directors of The Missionary Society will choose from the list of projects endorsed by the Commission on Missions in accordance with the greatest need. And remember, 100% of the money sent to the Missionary Society will go to the causes you designate. ALL of it. The expenses of the Missionary Society and the Commission on Missions are borne by the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, the administrative organ of our fellowship. The potential of the National Association will become actual only as its budget is underwritten.

And don't forget to send a contribution of suggestions to us too! We have appreciated your letters and hope we may be more helpful because of them. We want to know your thoughts about our Annual Meeting seminar and program, both subject and method. Plans are being initiated to make it the biggest and best yet held. Your participation in the planning and your attendance will help to make it so. Does your budget need to be budged so that your women's fellowship will be represented there?

IN MEMORIAM

Many people who have attended meetings of the National Association and of the Committee for Continuation of the Congregational Christian Churches of the United States were shocked to learn of the sudden death on January 18, 1959, of Mrs. Claude C. Kennedy of Minneapolis. Mrs. Kennedy had been a stanch defender of the Congregational Way, standing almost alone in meetings of the Executive Committee of the General Council, on which she served for several years. Her services to the Continuation Committee and on the Commission on Missions and Church Extension of the National Association have been of great value. She was elected to the Executive Committee of the National Association at the meeting in Detroit last October.

The sincere sympathy of all is extended to her husband, Claude C. Kennedy M.D., and her brother, Mr. M. J. Travis of Minneapolis, who survive her.

At the Milwaukee meeting of the Commission on Missions and Church Extension on January 26 it was voted to request Dr. Howell D. Davies to confer with Dr. Kennedy as to a suitable missionary project to be called the "Gladys T. Kennedy Memorial," to be promoted as such among the National Association Churches.

Congregational Bookshelf

Rev. Royal G. Davis, Los Angeles, California

When President Harrison proclaimed Washington a state in 1889, over forty years had passed since Congregationalist Marcus Whitman had saved the Pacific Northwest country for the United States. The story of our missions and martyrs on the Oregon Trail provides eloquent witness to Congregationalism's contribution to American history.

Free Christianity moved West with the missionary often before the rest of America came with the pioneer and homesteader. Congregationalism brought the independent church and the private school to the Indians of the Oregon plains. When settlers arrived the missionaries were there to provide a warm and hearty welcome.

The Whitman party crossed the continent in order to serve the Indian tribes. The Indians were friendly until a growing horde of settlers started to take over the whole country. In reprisal the braves went on a killing spree. The Congregational missionaries, their wives and children were the first victims of Indian terror before the Army moved in to restore order. Whitman is remembered in the Congregational college at Walla Walla, a national monument at the old mission site, and a statue in the United States Capitol Building. His faith lives on in the people and churches of the Northwest who are determined to preserve the Congregational Way.

Ann West Williams has told the adventure of NARCISSA AND MARCUS WHITMAN with all the color of exciting fiction (Associated Press $2). Written for teen-agers and designed for the *Heroes of God* series, the book is no less appropriate for an adult reader or a review at a women's meeting.

State Congregational Organizations

(THE CONGREGATIONALIST has been requested to publish from time to time a list of organizations in the various states, which have been formed to continue Congregationalism. It should be understood that these groups have arisen spontaneously in the several states and are not in any sense the creations of the National Association. The name of the correspondent given in this list may be that of a Moderator, an Executive Secretary, or some other person taking a leading part in its work. The Editor wishes to be kept up to date on this subject, and will be glad to receive corrections and additions from time to time, that they may be published in future issues.)

CONNECTICUT

Fellowship of Connecticut Congregational Christian Churches: Rev. Henry David Gray, South Congregational Church, Main and Buckingham Sts., Hartford 3.

ILLINOIS

Congregational Christian Laymen's Group: Mr. A. Stuart Oskamp, 262 Glenwood Av., Glen Ellyn.

Fellowship of Continuing Congregational Christian Churches: Mr. Thomas W. Williams, 951 North Academy St., Galesburg.

IOWA

Iowa Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches, (formerly Iowa Council of Concern): Rev. Max Strang, P. O. Box 163, Marshalltown.

KANSAS

Kansas Council of Concern: Mr. Charles M. Good, 124 East 11th St., Hutchinson.

MAINE

Maine Congregational Christian Council: Rev. Clayton E. Richard, 15 Lafayette St., Calais.

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Committee for the Continuation of Congregational Christian Churches: Mr. and Mrs. Sydney G. Abbot, Keyes Pond Road, Westford.

MICHIGAN

Michigan Council for the Advancement of Congregationalism: Rev. Alan Jenkins, P. O. Box 5, Royal Oak.

MINNESOTA

Congregational Laymen's Group of Minnesota: Mr. Arthur W. McMillan, 1110 Wesley Temple Bldg., Minneapolis 3.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire League to Preserve Congregationalism: Mrs. Arthur J. Benoit, Dunbarton, R. D. No. 2, Concord.

NEW YORK

New York Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches: Mrs. Leroy Edwards, 361 Clinton Av., Brooklyn.

(Cont. Col. 2)

Our Devotional Column

Rev. Harry W. Clark, Royal Oak, Michigan

VICTORY OVER OUR LIVES

Soon Easter will dawn again over our world to proclaim that victory does come in the lives of people, — though not always in quite the way that we expect. The disciples of Jesus expected a great Messianic victory involving legions sent by God to destroy the Romans. But to the surprise of the disciples, the great victory of Easter was over them, over their understanding. However we may interpret the Resurrection experience, we recognize that the point at which it had the greatest impact was upon the lives of the disciples.

They became new men. The world did not change one bit. It was still the same world with all of its cruelty and tragedy and suffering. All of the things that had stunned the disciples the day before were still present. The real victory of Easter was the victory over the understanding of the disciples. And this is the greatness of it. So intense was that experience that those bitter, disillusioned people found courage and new strength.

And so it is with people whenever understanding breaks upon them. It is people who change when understanding comes. We need to let Easter capture our imagination. We need to let the magnificence of the experience consume us until we can do nothing but react with a zeal born of true experience.

Imagine the scene that took place in the room where the disciples had gathered on the first Easter. Suddenly the door bursts open and Mary Magdalene rushes in breathless with her news that Jesus is not dead — that Jesus is alive. How incongruous it would be if the disciples were to rise quietly, clasp Mary's hand, and say "Good sermon, Mary, you sure gave us something to think about".

No! Easter demands that we move beyond thought. It demands that we react to the news of the victory of Christ over the minds and hearts of men. It demands that we submerge ourselves in the experience of Easter, that we become sharers with the disciples of Jesus through the ages. It prepares us to meet life and face life realistically. It confronts us with a faith, not for comfort only, but for adventure.

So as Easter dawns again, it bears witness to the fact that with it comes the dawn of understanding in our hearts. Easter does not proclaim a changed world, that is up to today's disciples. It does proclaim changed lives. However you may interpret the Resurrection of Christ, its importance depends on the way in which you react to it.

(Cont. from Col. 1)

OHIO

Ohio Congregational Christian Council: Rev. Edward W. Day, 312 Summit St., Toledo 3.

OREGON

North Willamette Association: Rev. Horace L. Bachelder, 517 Jefferson St., Oregon City.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Association of Congregational Christian Churches: Rev. John F. C. Green, 322 Olive Ave., McKeesport.

THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, CONGREGATIONAL
GRANADA HILLS, CALIFORNIA

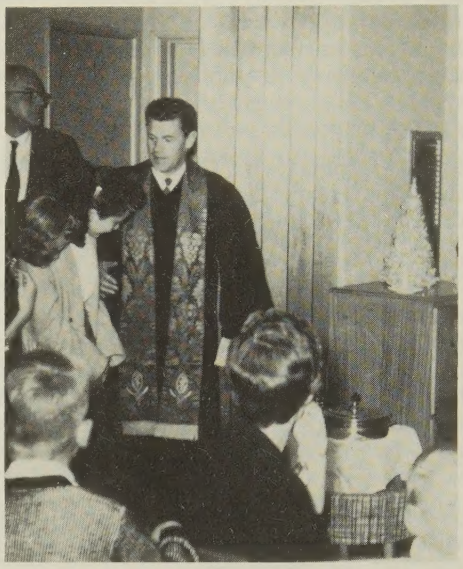
Miss Betty Brackett, Sherman Oaks, California

The Church of Our Saviour, Congregational, Granada Hills, California had its beginning in July of 1957, its purpose deeply rooted in the free Congregational Way and its preservation. Reverend James H. Kepler, formerly one of the ministers of First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, and more recently pastor of the Pacoima Congregational Church, is our minister. At the time of the Uniting Synod, which the Pacoima Church approved, Reverend Mr. Kepler resigned his pastorate, and with him a number of members withdrew to form the new church.

Lacking a place of worship, the services were held in the private homes of the members and in the Panorama Theatre. Now, due to the generosity of the Valley Christian Church, we are meeting in their chapel at 1 p.m. each Sunday. Our fine choir contributes greatly to the service, and a generous gift has purchased the choir robes. The Sunday School held its first session December 7, 1958 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Walter. Mr. Walter serves as superintendent. A most important part of our church is the Wednesday evening Scripture study. Opportunity for our personal search for the Word of God comes as Reverend Mr. Kepler conducts this weekly study.

Sometimes, the problems of establishing a new church, the only continuing Congregational Christian Church, in the great San Fernando Valley (population 750,000) loomed as almost insurmountable. Faith prevailed, however, and the obstacle gave way to a unity among the members, and an inner spiritual conviction. Help has been forthcoming from many sources. The financial assistance and encouragement of Reverend Harry R. Butman and the Church of the Messiah in Los Angeles and the aid of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches has helped the Church of Our Saviour through its most difficult periods.

A search was made for a property adequate for a permanent home for the church. Faith triumphed and a three acre site was found in Granada Hills in the northern part of the San Fernando Valley. The area has few churches and our site is in a good residential location, easily accessible from other cities. This property was obtained through the efforts of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.



We know our church will rise, dedicated to the Congregational principles of faith and freedom under God. Its sacrificial spirit guarantees it will live and thrive through the workings of faith aided immeasurably by the Gospel of Love.

READ A BOOK —HELP A CHURCH

An unusual opportunity for helping one of the Congregational Churches recently gathered in California, and at the same time to read a novel of great interest, is offered us this year. Through special arrangements with the publishers and the author, one dollar of the purchase price of THE JORDAN BEACHHEAD, by Rev. James H. Kepler, will go to The Church of our Saviour, Congregational, at Granada Hills, California.

In a foreword to this book, Charlton Heston, noted motion picture actor who played the part of Moses in one of the late Cecil B. de Mille's great films, says, "The questions that concern Mr. Kepler's characters as they stumble over a night-dark mountain searching for a lost and meaningful sheep, as they listen in the night to the murmuring, restless camps of the Baptist on the banks of the Jordan, and stand awed and silent in the shop of the Carpenter, still hang in men's minds today. The author supplies for us a wealth of simple, realistic detail of living two thousand years ago, sketches for us a delicate romance and a fierce enmity. With incidents both plausible and exciting he fills out the plot so familiar to us in its Gospel outlines."

(Cont. Col. 2)

(Cont. from Col. 1)

THE JORDAN BEACHHEAD may be ordered from Exposition Press, Inc., 386 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York, or from the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, 176 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin, @ $3.00 a copy. In ordering from the publisher, please mention that one dollar is to go to The Church of Our Saviour.

Ohio Council to Meet

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Congregational Christian Council has called the Annual Meeting of the Council, to be held at the First Congregational Church of Toledo, on Saturday, April 11th, at 1:30 p.m.

The invitation is extended to the members of all Ohio Congregational Christian Churches. Mr. Edward M. Arnos, President of the Executive Committee will moderate, and will introduce the new Council Secretary, Dr. Edward W. Day, who will present the Ohio program.

Rev. Neil H. Swanson, Executive Secretary of the National Association, will present the 1959 plans for the Association. At this writing the committee is negotiating with another speaker to bring the spiritual message concerning the future of Congregationalism.

NEBRASKAN HELPS CLARIFY SITUATION

"Confusion worse confounded" — these words describe very aptly the situation in the minds of many people in Congregational Christian Churches when they hear of the United Church of Christ. Are our churches in it or are they not? Such questions as "Our church is in the United Church: is there any way to get out?" "Aren't all the Congregational Christian Churches in it now?" come not infrequently to National Association and Continuationist workers.

All this confusion exists in spite of oft-published words to the effect that not one of our Churches can be taken into the union except by its own vote. Denominational officials freely admit that not a handful of our Churches have so voted. Yet the press and the public, including many Congregational Church members, still believe that the union includes all our Churches.

No doubt part of this confusion exists because comparatively few of our people read any of the literature sent out on the subject. But people do read their daily papers. As an aid to clarifying the situation and making it known that the local churches have not been taken into the United Church by act of the General Council, a lay member of First-Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraska, has written a letter which has appeared in both daily papers in that city. It reads as follows:

Lincoln, Nebraska

The Editor:

The purpose of this communication is to correct an erroneous impression about the present position of the Congregational Churches.

Many people seem to think that the Congregational Churches have united with the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form a new denomination. What has happened is the union of the General Council of the Congregational Churches with the Evangelical and Reformed Church to make the United Church of Christ.

This act on the part of the General Council does not affect the individual churches. Congregational Churches are still free and independent to direct their own procedures.

All attempts to intimate that a union has taken place, or to make our churches think that they are in the new fellowship are wrong and should be stopped forthwith.

A CONGREGATIONALIST

The example set by this loyal Nebraska Congregationalist may prompt equally loyal, but bewildered, people in other cities to write to their papers. It is worth trying! "Every little bit helps," and every Congregational Church member who knows the facts may help the cause of religious freedom by communicating these facts to others.

News Notes

Married: on January 11, 1959, Miss Thelma Marjorie Stuart to the Rev. Clayton Ernest Richard of Calais, Maine, at the Center Street Congregational Church, Machias, Maine.

Born: on January 6, 1959, a son, Gregor David, to the Rev. and Mrs. Angus MacDonald, Hutchinson, Kansas.

New Member Churches: The Executive Secretary has received official certification that the following churches have voted to become members of the National Association: *Michigan,* First Congregational Church, Allegan; First Congregational Church, Dundee: Arbor Grove Congregational Church, Jackson. *New Hampshire,* North Weare Congregational (Federated) Church. *Pennsylvania,* Bethlehem Congregational Church, Duquesne: Siglerville Congregational Church, Siglerville.

Recognition Service: Rev. Philip Jerome Cleveland was recognized as pastor of the Dille Larger Parish, at a service held on October 12, 1958, at Leroysville, Pennsylvania.

Pastoral Changes: Rev. Paul G. Pitman of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, has been called to the First Congregational Church, Burlington, Iowa. Rev. Paul W. Bennehoff, Parkersburg, Iowa, moves on March 10 to Muskegon, Michigan, to become pastor of the Jackson Avenue Congregational Church.

Judge Assigned to Lawsuit: On December 30, 1958, the Hon. John W. Clancy, Chief Judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of New York gave notice that Judge Edward J. Dimock has been assigned all duties, including trial, in the suit filed by the First Congregational Church and Society of Burlington, Iowa, *et al,* against the Evangelical and Reformed Church *et al.* This suit asks for a declaratory judgment to determine questions in actual controversy with reference to the validity, interpretation, and construction of the Basis of Union and Interpretations, and questions in respect of the rights and other legal relations of plaintiffs and those similarly situated.

Annual Meeting Plans: An invitation has been received from the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, California, for the National Association to hold its 1959 Annual Meeting there. Although detailed plans for the meeting are in the formative stage now, it may safely be said that a number of excellent speakers will be on the program. The dates will be in the week between Sunday June 28 and Saturday July 4. An early issue of THE CONGREGATIONALIST will contain a more complete report of these plans.

Ohio Council Proposes Positive Program: By vote of its Executive Committee on January 28, 1959, the Ohio Congregational Christian Council will call a meeting of carefully selected leaders from all sections of the United States, to draw up a Basis of Union which is simple, understandable, and truly Congregational. Further reports on this will appear in a later number of THE CONGREGATIONALIST.

To Our New Readers: Through the generosity of an interested layman, who desires that his identity be not divulged, THE CONGREGATIONALIST is now being sent to all Congregational Christian ministers, and as rapidly as we can obtain the names, to one or two key members in every church. We trust that this paper will help you to see the reason why so many Congregationalists are taking steps to protect themselves and their churches from being brought into another type of denomination, and how the National Association is undertaking to carry on the work of the Churches, by the Churches and for the Churches, in a day when the witness of freedom is so greatly needed.

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From the Letter Box

Editor, THE CONGREGATIONALIST:

The well attended meeting recently held at the First Congregational Church, Hanson, Massachusetts in the interest of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches was most instructive and the discussion referring to the forthcoming Constitution of the United Church of Christ now being prepared was interesting.

It appears that this said Constitution will make every effort to assure Congregationalists that all will be well and that our Congregational Christian Churches will operate practically as before, i.e., as free Congregational Christian Churches.

In this connection there came to mind the lines of the familiar ditty of the "Spider and the Fly" and that this Constitution's appeal to Congregationalists might well be somewhat along the same line:

"Won't you come into my parlor said the Spider to the Fly—
It's the nicest little (Congregational) parlor that ever you did spy"

When this parlor is ready for occupancy it may be well to give it careful scrutiny before accepting it as truly Congregational. There may be articles of furniture therein that Congregationalists do not recognize as Congregational and cautious inspection may reveal that these bear the mark Evangelical and Reformed.

ALBERT A. THOMAS
Middleboro, Massachusetts

The Commission on Missions

Eight members of the Commission on Missions and Church Extension of the National Association, with two visitors, met on January 26, 1959, in Milwaukee, Rev. Max Strang, chairman, presiding. Following a devotional service conducted by Rev. George E. Mitchell, the chairman spoke of the loss to the Commission in the death of Mrs. Claude C. Kennedy. Dr. Howell D. Davies was asked to talk with Dr. Kennedy about a suitable memorial project.

Due to the resignation of Mr. Ernest S. Crosby from the Commission, it was voted to recommend Rev. Leslie J. Deinstadt of Cheyenne, Wyoming, to succeed him.

Among the many concerns of the Commission meeting were, developments at the Metlakatla, Alaska, Indian Mission; two home mission pastors; new church projects in California and Ohio; establishment of new congregations and church buildings in South India; refugee and evangelism work in Hong Kong and Formosa; assistance to Churches in Ohio, Maine, and London; agricultural projects in Africa and the Philippines; and seminary and college scholarships.

From all quarters of our National Association there was evidence of increased devotion to and support of our Christian outreach at home and overseas. Both designated and undesignated gifts are coming in constant and larger volume to our Missionary Society.

Attention was called in the February CONGREGATIONALIST to the fact that checks, either for designated or undesignated purposes, should be made payable, and sent to, Howell D. Davies, Treasurer, Room 2308, 100 North LaSalle Street, Chicago 2, Illinois.

Have You Read These?

The following publications of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches may be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Rev. Neil H. Swanson, Jr., 176 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin, or the Eastern Regional Representative, Rev. Joseph J. Russell, 61 East Street, Melrose 76, Massachusetts. SHOULD LAY PEOPLE ASK QUESTIONS? (H. W. Johnson) Free. CHURCH PROPERTY AND CHURCH UNIONS (H. W. Johnson) Free. THE STORY OF THE MERGER (H. W. Johnson) Free. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER OF A CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (H. D. Gray) 5c each, $3.50 a hundred. CENTRAL CONVICTIONS, DARING DEEDS (H. D. Gray) Free. THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (H. R. Butman) (In process of revision) 5c each, $3.50 a hundred. STIMULATING SUGGESTIONS (for Women's Programs) $1.00 each. AN EDUCATIONAL PROJECT Free.

New folders concerning the missionary and church extension programs of the National Association are in the process of preparation. These will be mentioned in future issues of THE CONGREGATIONALIST.

OUR COVER PICTURE

Born the same year as another lover of freedom, Abraham Lincoln, the Park Street Congregational Church of Boston has just been celebrating its 150th anniversary. The Church was organized in 1809 at the Beacon Hill home of William Thurston. Among the charter members were the father of the inventor, Samuel F. B. Morse, and of the poet and author, Oliver Wendell Holmes. William Lloyd Garrison gave his first blazing address against slavery in Park Street Church in 1829, and among his listeners was John Greenleaf Whittier.

With a membership of 2200, Park Street Church contributes over $250,000 annually for missions. It claims the largest individual Church missionary program in the United States. Dr. Harold John Ockenga is pastor.

It was in keeping with its traditional devotion to freedom that Park Street voted "No" on the original balloting on the merger issue, and in 1956 became a member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.